The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

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From The Editor...

Wow! Don't be like those guys over there! It sure looks like they overdid the Halloween Partying, doesn't it?

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Well, here we are again. Another month has come and gone… The fall season is one of change, with the weather getting colder and the leaves changing colors and falling to the ground. A good season to get on the air and see how the conditions are or, just to light a fire in the fireplace and snuggle down next to a warm boat-anchor for a Round-table with the Whisky Group on 3957 Khz…

It really is getting better for radio as the days get shorter and DX rolls in with the fading of day. Recently, during the "Slamm'in Salmon Run!" the "Mighty 'DK was receiving responses from EU DX! WOW! Makes getting on the air early in the morning worth it…

The W7DK HF station is open to any club members to use, constrained only by the license class of the control operator and familiarity with the proper operation of the HF gear. Anyone who wants or needs to be shown how to do anything up there can simply contact myself or Lynn Neese K7OKS we co-chair the HF station operations and will be glad to run anyone through the paces up there. We would much prefer that familiarization process for anyone who is the least bit hesitant about HF operations. Better a check-out than expensive repairs!

So lets get into the Loggers Bark and good reading to all you out there!

73 Gary WG7X

A Jot from Jill

"A Jot From Jill"

A warm hello to all of you from your president. September was a fun-filled month for the club and radio enthusiasts. The Radio Club of Tacoma spent 3 weekends and 2 weeks at the Western Washington Fair representing both W7DK and Amateur Radio. A huge thank you to Pat, WT7N for putting together another amazing looking booth and to all the others who helped her set up and take down. I hope all of us got a chance to either be a part of sharing in the booth experience or you took the time to visit. We always meet some great folks who like to tell us old Ham Radio stories, those who sign up to take the class to get their license or others who decide to get back into it. At any rate, it always makes for a positive experience.

On the second weekend of the Fair was the Western Washington QSO Party, better known as the "Salmon Run". Many of you have donated again to this fundraiser for the club. Please be sure to stop by the clubhouse on a Saturday and see some of the improvements as a result of your generosity. In fact, I'll take this opportunity to thank some of our members who have spent so much time and work at the clubhouse lately getting things done. Their efforts are really appreciated by all! Thanks go to Al, N7OMS, Rich KR7W, Pat WT7N, Bruce, WE7P, Chuck AC7QN, Bob AD7LJ, Pete KK7QW, Rodney WV7O, Gary WG7X and Harry N7DOE.

We will be letting you know more about the results of the Salmon Run and probably some photos and stories.

As you know, this is the time of year that we do nominations. Vice President, Secretary and 3 Board positions are the open positions this year. Nominations will be presented and accepted from the floor at the October 14th meeting. This year we had 3 awesome club members who worked hard on the nominating committee. Thank you to Tom Gale, KE7LDC, Nominating Chairman, Mike Elwell, W7GHW and Lynn Neece, K7OKS. Elections are coming in November. Be sure to always have the club's best interest in mind as you receive your ballots in the mail and VOTE!

Don't forget to take advantage of the many ways you can enjoy being a part of the club. Our Tuesday evening net, 148.28 at 7:30 pm; Sunday eve net, 28.375 at 8:00 pm; Saturday at the clubhouse, 10-3, Board meeting, 7 pm at the clubhouse on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Membership meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7:30 pm at the Library Administration Bldg. Ken Gibson, N7ELF has presented some great programs for our meetings this year. Have some fun and participate in the many Bunny Hunts.

With all that said, my Jot has turned into A LOT! I could go on thanking everyone but I will save some of that for our Annual Christmas Party in December. Enjoy October! Always remember to be nice on Halloween. That cute little trick-or-treater at your door with the mask on could be me.....

73, Jill K7Jil,
Radio Club of Tacoma President

Board Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Jill Palmer – K7Jil

Present: Jill – K7JIL, President
Rick – KE7EMW, Vice President
Joe – K7AWJ, Treasurer
Frank – AC7JY, Board Member
Al – K7HW, Board Member
Gary – WG7X, Board Member
Harry – W7HSA, Board Member

Health, Welfare, Illness or Silent Key:
Al Burleson – K7HW (recovering from fall)

MINUTES
It was moved and seconded to approve the Previous Meeting minutes as coordinated and/or corrected. Motion Passed

CORRESPONDENCE AND CALENDAR:
From the Correspondence Log…
1) Letter from WA State DNR to Nick Winter: "New Gate at Crawford Mountain Repeater site – use same key that you already have."

CALENDAR REVIEW

Sept 2 Wed Board Meeting

Sept 5 Sat Open House, Clubhouse – Joe Lester – K7AWJ

Sept 5-6 Sat/Sun NO Technician Course

Sept 8 Tue VE Testing, Clubhouse

Sept 9 Wed General Membership Meeting

Sept 11 – 27 W7DK at the Fair – Pat – WT7N

Sept 12 Sat Open House, Clubhouse – Gary McAdams – WG7X

Sept 12 Sat Hidden Transmitter Hunt – Rich – KR7W (Noon at Fort Steilacoom Park)

Sept 19 Sat Open House, Clubhouse – Harry Adams – W7HSA

Sept 19 – 20 Washington State QSO Party – "Salmon Run"

Sept 23 Wed Membership Meeting

Sept 25 Fri BARK Deadline – *prior to the last full weekend of the month*

Sept 26 Sat Open House, Clubhouse – Gary McAdams – WG7X

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe – K7AWJ

Joe – K7AWJ reported the current checking account balance of $4,650.36. A copy of the monthly summary financial report for August, 2009 is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Report: Rick – KE7EMW
Membership Count: 331

Hamfest: Larry - KD4VOM; Al - K7HW; Rick - KE7EMW

Initial revenue figures higher than recent years – still waiting on final bill from Bethel Jr. High for use of the facility.

Salmon Run Fundraiser: Harry – W7HSA, Al – N7OMS, Rick KE7EMW

Solicitation Letters, Pledge forms, and envelopes are printed and ready to be folded/ stuffed – Harry requested volunteers to meet at the clubhouse tomorrow, Thursday, September 3, 2009 at 10:00am – Tom Gale – KE7LDC, Bruce Hanson – WE7P, and Rick Rose – KE7EMW.

W7DK at the Fair: Pat – WT7N
This is Pat's final year – looking for understudy now. We need a storage area dedicated for the fair cabinets, signs, etc (Before the next board meeting.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Furnace Duct Repair: Status: Open

Frank AC7JY has obtained two estimates and is soliciting additional estimates for insulating the furnace ducting. $360 (w/ $500 min) to insulate the ducts OR $1171.53 to both insulate AND seal the seams with a special product.
$1050.00 (no seam sealing – just insulation)

Clubhouse Alarm System: Status: Pending
Purchase of the Alarm system bill of materials approved – pending available time and action of Rick – KE7EMW, RCT Safety and Security Officer.

Clubhouse Basement Water/gutter drains: Status: Open

Al – N7OMS and Bruce – WE7P plan to install plastic gutter extensions before the rainy season. Although several board members remembered authorizing funds for Al – N7OMS to use for clubhouse repairs and painting, we could find no written record of the amount. Further discussion and an update from Al – N7OMS on approved projects (in-progress and pending) and proposed new projects (adding window sills and blinds) resulted in a motion to approved a budget not to exceed $600.00 which did receive a second. During discussion, it was moved and seconded to amend the current motion to include the stipulation that these funds come from 2008 Salmon Run Fundraiser funds. The motion to amend passed. The newly-amended motion passed.

Clubhouse Cleanup: Status: In-Progress

Al – N7OMS has spear-headed several work parties in recent weeks outside paint prep
outside painting window sill repair/installation
lawn work removal of old fencing, fence posts/ concrete, etc… Al – N7OMS stated that Larry – KD4VOM is interested in having the roll of chain-linked fencing. Discussion revealed that the fencing had been discarded by the City of Tacoma and made available for any who would haul it away, and that it had cost the RCT nothing. Not being official, club-property, Larry may haul the fencing away with the board's blessing .Al – N7OMS requested and received permission to dispose of broken UPS's and the dilapidated flower boxes from the front porch.

It was moved and seconded to approve the sale of the big, commercial, transmitter tube that has been mounted in a wood frame and displayed in various places in the clubhouse. Discussion revealed that Rich – KR7W as the Museum Manager, had already verified that the tube held no "Amateur Radio Historical Value." The motion passed. It is hoped that the Internet Resources Team will be willing to sell the tube on eBay.

Equipment Loan Policy: Status Open

The Board approved an interim procedure, pending completion of the clubs Property Management SOP, to establish a list of knowledgeable members to assist or train other members in the use of the analyzer, and to require a signed promissory note prior to any loan, to cover any damage to the analyzer The Mac Park's Analyzer and other equipment.

Establishing the list is pending…

Property Selection Team: Status – Open

Established Team in May – Gary WG7X heading up.

Select what to keep and what to sell, by coordinating the tube inventory list with the Museum Manager, HF Station Manager and Field Day planners, and then secure Board approval so that the IRT team can turn the un-needed tubes into funds for club operations, and make storage room at the same time.

W7BUN estate - Manuals Collection Donation: Status Pending

Several file cabinets full of Collins manuals have been offered as a donation by Margaret (Jerry – W7BUN's heir) and are to be stored at Larry – KD4VOM's place pending more permanent storage arrangements. Al – N7OMS, Al – AC7BU, and Steve – AD7VL plan to collect and transport the files next week.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination Committee

SECTION FOUR - ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(A) NOMINATING COMMITTEE. On or before the regular September meeting of each year, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of a Chairperson and at least two other full members who are not current officers. Members of the nominating committee shall have been full members of the club for at least one year. Nominees for Board Positions shall have been club members in good standing for at least one year. Nominees for Officers shall have been club members in good standing for at least two years.

Jill – K7JIL appointed the following:

Tom Gale – KE7LDC - Chairman

Lynn Neece – K7OKS

Mile Elwell – W7GHW

It was moved and seconded…

… that the Treasurer arrange for the Club's money market account with Principal Funds to be closed and the balance of the Club's invested funds be transferred to a new Chase Bank savings account; and

… that the Treasurer be authorized to invest up to 80% of the Club's invested funds in one or more automatically renewing Certificates of Deposit, each for a deposit term not longer than two years.

This motion passed.

It was moved and seconded…

… that the Club's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws be published as pdf-files on the W7DK.org web site, with the Articles to be published in a format identical to the image files stored in the archives on the Washington Secretary of State's web site, and the Bylaws to be published in a format identical to the Bylaws as they appear in the Radio Club of Tacoma Membership Booklet.

This motion passed.

It was moved and seconded…

… that the President establish an ad-hoc committee to propose amendments to the Bylaws and, if necessary, Article Two (Purpose) of the Articles of Incorporation.

Discussion revealed that the Planning Team had already begun an analysis of the current by-laws along with proposed changes. Many felt that the Planning Team is the proper group to continue this task. This motion passed. Jill – K7JIL will take under advisement the recommendation to allow the Planning Team to continue this task and announce her appointments in the near future.

It was moved and seconded…

… that the President appoint two members to serve as the Audit Committee assigned to review the Club's financial records for the calendar year ending December 31, 2009.

This motion passed. Jill – K7JIL will give thought to the requirements and announce her appointments at the next meeting.

It was moved and seconded…

… that the Board appoint an Assistant Treasurer to serve as a non-voting Board member for a term ending on December 31, 2010.

This motion passed. Rick – KE7EMW is to collect names and present them to Joe – K7AWJ for interview. Successful candidate names will then be proposed to the Board for appointment.

It was moved and seconded…

… that the Treasurer solicit suggestions and comments from Club members during a period beginning on September 9, 2009 and ending on January 13, 2010, the purpose of which shall be to facilitate preparation of the Club's budget for the 2010 calendar year, and long range plan for the three years ending December 31, 2012.

This motion passed.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Communications Operations:

Open Issues:

Awaiting relocation of the 2 Meter Repeater and IRLP downstairs.

Property Management: Pending

Status: Open

Marsh Equipment List vs. insurance coverage update request – Insured equipment property list does not match even our limited equipment property holdings

Loose ends remain from the Hamfest and Consignment/Donations.

Multiple items require triage, inventory, and accounting to make the equipment database current.

Most of the gear remains at KD4VOM QTH due to lack of available club storage space.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Frank – AC7JY has installed a sliding-bolt lock on the Ladies' Room door.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm

General Membership
September 9, 2009 MINUTES

The September 9, 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW
Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ
Board Member: Al Burleson – K7HW
Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 59 names on the attendance roster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Jill -- K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Joanne Souter – WA4KZQ (SK).

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Rick Rose – KE7EMW (Acting)

Rick reported the usual bank statements, and a letter from the Washington State DNR go Nick – K7MO regarding an additional locked gate on private property leading up to the Crawford repeater site.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Financial information is available on request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW Reports the current membership stands at 332.

VE Report: John AC7WW

At the regular monthly testing session on Tuesday, September 8 2009 ten candidates were served by ten VE's. Fourteen elements were graded with twelve being passed. One new Technician joined the Amateur ranks. Two candidates upgraded to General. Four candidates upgraded to Extra. One candidate passed both element 2 and 3 to become a General and we had one candidate that passed element 2, 3, and 4 to become an Extra. One candidate did not earn an upgrade.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA
Jon, AD7AW
Stephen,AD7AB
Steve, AD7VL
Rich, KK7VH
Bob, AD7LJ
Al, AC7BU
Joe, K7AWJ
Mike, AD7TH
The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, October 13th.

Salmon Run: Harry W7HSA will be hosting a "Calling Party" at the clubhouse on Tuesday, September 15 beginning at 4pm. Members who can volunteer to help should bring their cell phones and will be calling other club members who have not yet responded with their Salmon Run Fundraiser pledge form. Pizza will be provided by Harry.

Also, there will be a potluck on Saturday, September 19th during the actual Salmon Run contest at 6pm at the clubhouse. All RCT members and their guests are welcome.

PROGRAM: Tonight's program was presented by Nick Winter – K7MO on behalf of the South Hill Contest Club about the successes and challenges of last year's Salmon Run Contest (2008.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nominations Committee Appointed:

- Tom Gale – KE7LDC – Chairman
- Lynn Neece – K7OKS

Mike Elwell – W7GHW

Nominations will be presented and accepted from the floor at the October 14th General Membership Meeting.

Elections are coming in November.

This Saturday, September 12th – There will be a Hidden Transmitter Hunt at Steilacoom Park at NOON – Organized by Rich Patrick – KR7W and Chuck Kemmer – AC7QN.

The Jerry Seligman Memorial manual library is now secure.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Larry – K7LBD responded to an Ad in QST that was seeking Maritime Radio Officers. After attending several compressed training courses, Larry is now certified to support US Flagships while they are on deployment.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Sunday 10-meter Net at 8pm on 28.375 MHz – Lynn – K7OKS needs a substitute net control operator for the last 2 Sundays of September.

Tuesday 2-meter Net at 7:30pm on 147.28 club repeater

20-meters has been open around 10 to 10:30am recently

Don – K7OG reports a QSO with the United Arab Emirates (A6)

Bill – AD7QI reports mobile contact with Hawaii while setup at a campsite using his 80/40/20 dipole.

DOOR PRIZE:

Diane – W7SIM won a 2006/2007 Repeater Directory.

Charlie won a soldering iron.

Bob – N7NCP won a volt/ohm mili-amp meter.

Al – W7EC won a QRZ Callsign DB CD.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm

September 23, 2009 MINUTES

The September 23, 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW (Acting Secretary)
Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ
Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 42 names on the attendance roster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Jill -- K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

- Mick Pier – KK7QS – recent motorcycle accident (recovering)

Harry Howell – KB7WYO – in the hospital (serious illness.)

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Rick Rose – KE7EMW (Acting)

Rick reported the usual utility bills, and many Salmon Run Fundraiser Pledge Forms.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ

- Financial information is available on request.
- Annual Budget Suggestions are being solicited (email was sent to all club members.) Respond by either sending email to Joe or by filling out one of the forms which will be available at the sign-in table at every meeting through end of the year.

The Board is seeking to appoint an Asst. Treasurer (non-voting board member) to assist Joe. Anyone interested should see Rick – KE7EMW.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW Reports the current membership stands at 334.

Salmon Run: Harry W7HSA thanked all those who volunteered at last week's Calling Party: Jan Gilbertson – K7HTU, Al Ferguson – N7OMS, Joe Lester – K7AWJ, Bruce Hanson – WE7P, and Stephen Morton – AD7AB.

There was a nice turnout at the Salmon Run Potluck on Saturday evening.

The contest team contacted 35 out of 39 Washington counties. They made 391 phone contacts and 111 CW contacts.

W7DK at the Fair: Jill asked for independent reports from those who had volunteered. Several related anecdotes of interesting and pleasant experiences.

PROGRAM: Tonight's program was presented by Ken Gibson – N7ELF. Ken gave a review of a recent QST article titled "Universal Ham Radio Text Messaging Initiative" written by Bob Brunninga – WB4APR.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nominations Committee is avtivly preparing their presentation. If you would like to be considered, please see any of the following:

- Tom Gale – KE7LDC – Chairman
- Lynn Neece – K7OKS

Mike Elwell – W7GHW

The Nominations Committee will present their report and additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the October 14th General Membership Meeting.

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Mike Elwell – W7GHW

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Elections are coming in November.

ABC-Day for Bethel School District will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 12-3pm at Graham-Kapowsin High School. Jill – K7JIL and Frank AC7JY were asked by the school district to represent W7DK and Amateur Radio at a table/booth.

The City of Auburn is hosting an Emergency Fair on September 26th from 11 – 4pm. See Maury Kurtz – W7OT if you live in the Auburn area and would like to participate.

Steve – AD7VL recently setup a display in conjunction with September (being Emergency Preparedness Month for the entire country) to promote Amateur Radio at "Safety Day" sponsored by the Washington State Dept of Revenue. While there, Steve had a QSO with the W7DK at the Fair station.

Don – K7OG reported Salmon Run contest results for the N7PP team. They operated from Columbia County with two stations in the multi-multi category. They contacted 36 Washington counties while making 1,230 phone contacts, and 761 CW contacts. They had a multiplier of 127 for an approximate score of 700,000.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

None

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Sunday 10-meter Net at 8pm on 28.375 MHz – Lynn – K7OKS needs a substitute net control operator for the last Sunday of September.

Tuesday 2-meter Net at 7:30pm on 147.28 club repeater

DOOR PRIZE:

Worth – W7WG won a soldering iron.

Linda – KE7FKX won a grab-bag of items.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm

SLAMM'IN SALMON RUN, 2009!

Salmon Run 2009 has run its course and the Radio Club of Tacoma has done quite well. First I wish to say thank you to all Radio Club members. Some members we don't see often but still are members in good standing and I wish to acknowledge that we value them also. We all go through phases in our lives and have many different interests as we travel life's path. In reading from the Library's Bark archives I see names of people that at some point were very involved with the club. That they continue to be members in good standing is a tribute to what the Radio Club has meant to them. It is my hope that the Radio Club continues to create Ham Radio memories that we can all look back on with pride and fondness.

In order to be able to create those memories we need to continue to repair and upgrade the Club's capabilities. If you have not been by lately come over and check out what's going on. We have the internet available in every room. The Library is growing with member donation books and even a few new ones. We have books to lend downstairs at the back of the classroom. Upstairs two computers are hooked to a printer and the internet. A scanner is in the works. We have a catalog of around 500 items for members to use. Soon you may even have access to Jerry Seligman's repair manuals which cover quite an extensive range of older ham gear. Things are happening at your Radio Club of Tacoma thanks to your dues and donations.

Several weeks before the Big Day Gary WG7X worked with members from ARL (Acme Research Labs) to make sure we had all the bits and pieces that make a contest station. We had gotten the Ten Tec back from repair so this was a chance to match it up with the newer HF computer and the Linear. It was going to be a weekend of all knobs to the Right, Fire in the Wire! To make things even better Chuck AC7QN had gone over a donated Heathkit Antenna Tuner model SA-2060 checked its action and cleaned it up. With this tuner in the lineup we would be able to run 1200 watts into the Beam and Dipole. To further enhance performance Bill AD7QI let the club borrow one of his professionally built 4:1 baluns that could handle the increase in power. It worked so well Bill has installed a current balun inside the SA-2060 at his expense for the club's continued use.

There are many people who stepped forward to make the Club's annual fund raiser a success but I wish to give a special thank you to Harry Adams W7HSA. He stepped up and led the charge while having to contend with me. Thanks Harry! Also thanks to Rich KR7W due to VW trouble he and Chuck AC7QN stayed in town over the Salmon Run weekend. Rich made last minute adjustments to the station and even repairs during the contest itself. But best of all he added his CW fist to the cause. Sunday afternoon all others had left but Rich and myself. I asked if he would stay. My reason was that we were at about 90,000 for points and about 475 QSO's. Wouldn't it be great if we could break 6 figures? We didn't get all 39 counties but we did get over 500 QSO's, 100,000 points and 92 multipliers. Good job everyone and thanks.

Al, N7OMS

MUSEUM MUSINGS

News from the Clifford J Doc Spike Museum

Museum Goes on a Road Trip...

History Lesson: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, who is part of this years RCT Ham Fest planning team... asked me if I would bring some W7OS Museum artifacts to this years Ham Fest and set up a display table. Also, Worth, W7WG, was to participate. I agreed with the condition that I could set up an antenna to put one of the Museum Stations on the air.

Here's the set up... On the left is the Museum's circa 1918 Crystal Set Receiver, the ca 1955 WRL Globescout CW transmitter, on top of that is a more modern ca 1965 Drake 2NT Novice Transmitter, to the right of the Globescout is a Drake 2B receiver with Q Multiplier. Under the lamp is a ca 1939 RME-69, then a National receiver (model escapes me), and the smaller black box on top of the National is a very popular National SW3, ca 1931. Worth W7WG is at the controls. Notice the ladder line in the center of the foto... it goes up to the 8 ft long dipole that is strung up between the two black colored vertical support stiles and holds up the signage. The station was on the air... and quite a few visitors wondered how we could make CW contacts with such a short antenna inside of the building.

Continued next page...

Two days before the hamfest I posted a bulletin on the Straight Key Century Club website that W7OS, number 2714, would be on the air from the hamfest to demonstrate to old and new hams how amateur radio began… with the straight key and Morse code. We just happened to have a XTAL (crystal) for the 20 meter calling frequency (14.050 MCs). Wouldn't you know… there was some kind of CW contest going on right on top of us, but we were able to make four QSOs from W7OS/P. The first contact was made with the Drake 2NT… as is has an output power of about 80 watts, and I wanted to be heard. A comment from the ham contacted was, "That old XMTR has a nice note to it for an old rig". Hmmmm, a clean note CW signal doesn't fit the image of the W7OS Museum.

The old Globescout was connected to the antenna and CQ was called. Even though it only outputs 25 watts… the next contact was with Bob, W9WTF, in Hopedale, IL. The third contact was with Don, VE5DP, in Silton, Saskatchewan. The QSO with Don in SK was the most interesting… He told me that he just received his Straight Key Century Club membership number yesterday. W7OS was his first straight key contact since 55 years ago. I let him know that his fist was still pretty good. When I told him that we were a vintage station at the RCT hamfest… he commented that he had a basement full of old gear, but he doubted that it worked because he had been off the air for so long. He now has a new Icom IC-7000 rig that works FB. 50 years from now the Museum will have a 7700 on its shelf.

Fotos by Cmdr Bob, AD 7LJ

The hams that made contact with W7OS's Globescout, K6LJC, gave us a RST of 55**7** (**7** for the chirpy tone) and K5EWJ reported our RST as 559**C** (**C??**… you guessed it: Chirp). K5EWJ told me his rig was an Elecraft K3 and a STEPPIR antenna. Seems quite the contrast to the W7OS set up. Mission accomplished: W7OS held its position in the ether.

Many hams who visited the W7OS display were very interested in the 1918 crystal set receiver. I told them that this was the kind of receiver that was used on ships and land stations in the days of Spark Gap amateur and commercial radio stations. Another popular radio artifact was the RME-69 receiver and the Drake 2B with Q multiplier. Back when I was a Novice in 1963… the 2B was the receiver to drool over but hard to afford with my paper route salary. All in all… the W7OS Museum display was a huge success. The hams on the Whiskey Group are still talking about this event.

Oh yah… how'd we make those contacts with the ladder line fed 8 ft inside dipole? We didn't… I erected a 20 meter inverted-Vee, 30 feet high, out behind the school, fed with a 170 ft coax jumper. Ha! Made you look twice, Joe.

The Museum regulars plan to get back in the Museum after the Salmon Run… aka the Washington State QSO Party… around the end of September. Stop by the museum and see if we have changed anything. Hey Joe… thanks for reading this far and I hope to see you at Straight Key Night.

30 Rich KR7W.

Above photo shows the 2009 W7DK booth in the Hobby Hall at the Puyallup Fair.

Fair well to the Fair... by Pat WT7N

As you know the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup is over for 2009. The booth fixtures and props, radio equipment, and hand-out materials are put away.

Thank you for the positive comments regarding the look and layout of the booth. Thanks for relaying to me how the visitors to the fair liked and appreciated the radio club being there. The DK at the Fair couldn't have been as successful as it was without the following volunteer's help.

Chuck, AC7QN, and Rich, KR7W, for setting up antennas and radios. Thanks to Leonard, KA7NWF, for making fair buttons for everyone. Special thanks to John, AC7WW, Chuck, AC7QN, Marv, KC7JKA, Harry, N7DOE, and David, AD7BK, for filling in at last minute.

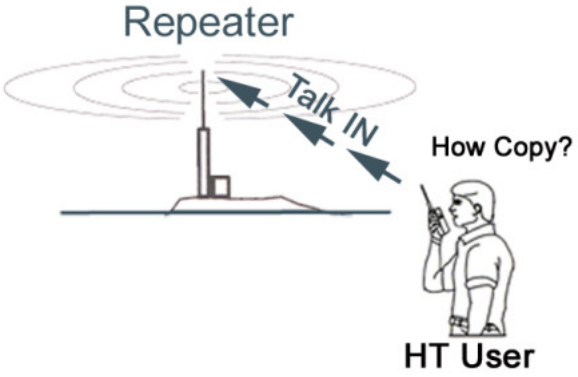
Special thanks to Diane Morrison at ICOM AMERICA for negotiating the loan of radios, IC7600 and IC208H. Also thanks to ICOM for all the great handouts.

Thank you to: Bob N7NCP and Greta, Chris KB7NMU, John AC7WW and Connie, Tom KE7LDC, Don K7OG, Harry N7DOE, Bruce WE7P, Rob WB7QCS, Stephen AD7AB, Hal W7EC, Jeanne KD7ZBM, Jay KD7DKY, Carrie KD7GUK, Dennis KA7IIV, Richard KD6FEA, Si KA7AQT, Chris KE7LDE, Diane W7SIM, Marv KC7JKA, Reidar NS7SN, Frank AC7JY, Eivor KD7SXS, Jill K7JIL, Ken N7ELF, Roger KE7EMV, Paul K7AXJ, Steve AD7VL, Alan W7AML, Joe K7AWJ, Bob KE7ECQ, Bill AD7QI, Susan KE7SPS, Al AC7BU, Jon AD7AW, Al N7OMS, Gary K7UPG, Bob W7SKI, Nick K7MO, Phil W7PFZ, Chris W7YX, Worth W7WG , James WA7JN, Steve W7QLO, Ed KC7OKS, Tom N7QHX, Gwen KD7NES, Shirley N7QHW, Leonard KA7NWF, Harry W7HSA, David AD7BK, for manning the booth.

This is my last year as the 'DK at the Fair' coordinator, so once again thanks to all for the pleasurable experience. The Radio Club management will soon be announcing the name of the club member who takes over this position. Stay tuned! *Regards to all... Pat WT7N*

Can You Hear Me NOW? How 'bout now?

By Rich KR7W



A repeater, like RCT's W7DK repeater, transmits out of its transmitter what it receives from its receiver. If you are transmitting to the repeater and desire to be retransmitted via its transmitter… the signal you transmit must meet some minimum requirements.

In order for you to use the repeater, your transmitted signal must be strong enough to open the receiver's squelch **and** contain the correct CTCSS sub-audible tone (popularly known as the 'PL tone'). The receiver is like a gate with two locks. Once both locks are opened then you can pass.

Some receivers are very sensitive and their squelch adjustment is set to let an extremely weak signal through… and if that signal contains the PL tone then both locks on the gate are opened. This condition met then generates a signal to turn the transmitter on (sometimes called 'key up' or Push to Talk, aka PTT) and the receiver audio is sent out over the air for folks to hear on the repeaters 'output' frequency. When a weak signal gets through… some repeater users will say that the signal is NOT 'full quieting' or "you're coming in very scratchy and I cant understand much of what you are saying. What was your call again? Maybe try again from another location." And so on.

Sometimes I've heard this on the repeater, when the signal is scratchy and weak but strong enough to make out some of what is being received, "OK, I copy that I am scratchy, but I hear you just fine". Operator A hears the repeater just fine. But Operator B (me or you) know that he is being received by the repeater weak and scratchy. "How can this be?" What da ya think, Joe? I think you are right, Joe… Operator A is using a handy talky (sometimes known as a "*handy scratchy*").

Some commercial radio terms (or lingo) come to mind that apply here. ***TALK IN*** and ***TALK OUT***.

Talk IN refers to the amount of signal strength the base station or repeater receives from the station in the field… aka the mobile or HT user.

Talk OUT refers to the amount of signal strength the mobile or HT (in the field) re-

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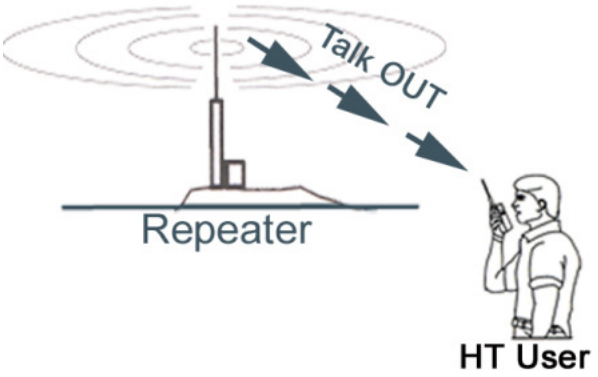

receives from the base station or repeater. If Operator A is using a Handy Talky then the repeater's receiver is going to receive A's signal much lower than HT-A's receiver will receive the repeater's signal. How's that? The typical out of the box handy talky has a much lower power transmitter. Both of my Icom HTs output no more than 3 watts on high power while using a fully charged battery. When the battery runs down the little radio adjusts its power to be lower. This output power is then fed to a rubber ducky antenna which is known as a "compromise" antenna. The compromise is safety, comfort, and aesthetics VS effectiveness. Perhaps you've heard about the gain of an antenna… well, the rubber ducky actually presents us with a LOSS or negative gain. So this combination of low power and a lossy antenna lowers the HT's TALK IN signal towards the repeater.

Looking the opposite direction, the repeater's output power is about 50 watts (out of the duplexer which will be discussed in an upcoming article) coupled to a high gain antenna. [Side note: The antenna connected to the W7DK Tacoma repeater is about 17 ft long at 85 feet high.]

Since the subject of this article is mostly about TALK IN and TALK OUT… I am not going to go into antenna theory very deep. But it is important to know that transmitters and their antenna system have **ERP** or **E**ffective **R**adiated **P**ower which is the combination of the power output in watts, the feed line (coax) loss, and the antenna gain/loss. ERP is expressed in watts. In commercial radio… the when the FCC licenses a station, the permitted output power is expressed in watts ERP. In amateur radio the permitted power is expressed in plain old watts right at the transmitter's antenna connector.

The Handy Talky's ERP = +3 watts transmitter output into a –6dB gain antenna which calculates to be 3/4 (.75) watts.

The Repeater's ERP calculates like this: +50 watt duplexer output to a length of low loss coax cable, 1 dB loss…. To a 7 dB gain antenna. The ERP = 200 watts. Joe is asking if I did the math correctly… I think so and the numbers tell us that the repeater's transmit signal is 266 times stronger than the handy scratchy.

So hopefully it is clear that in a lot of situations the Handy Talky is not the best choice to communicate through the repeater with. I am not saying that a HT will not work for communication through a repeater. I do it all of the time from my easy chair in my living room. But in my situation, my house is at equal elevation with the repeater's antenna, almost line of sight, and about one mile as the crow flies. I've also talked through the repeater with clarity with my HT from Mt Rainier National Park (45 miles away) but I was at 7000 feet elevation with a line of sight path to Tacoma. However, if you are not in a line of sight path such as riding the bus, in your car, in the Puyallup Valley, and so on… your signal is going to be weak, scratchy, "not quite makin' it", "cant pull you out", and other overused terms that mean "I can't read you".

Recently at the Clubhouse, a new member asked me about choosing a two meter handy talky. I asked him how he was

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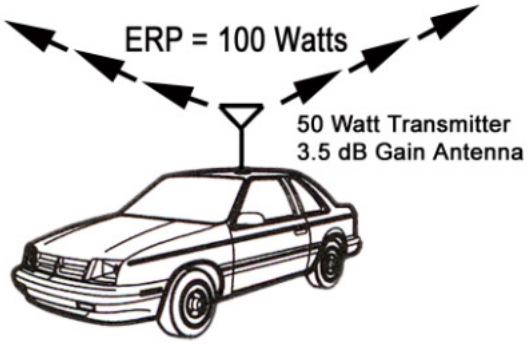


going to use it. He replied that he has three vehicles he wants to operate on two meters from but only wanted to purchase one radio. He had his sights on a very nice Icom 2M Handy Talky.

I suggested to him that he consider purchasing a two meter mobile rig and a magnetic mount antenna system. The set up I envisioned for him was: Mount the radio and the microphone storage clip on a kitchen cutting board, the kind with a handle cut into it. Wire the 12 Volt power leads to a cigarette lighter plug with a 10 Ampere current rating. Place the radio on the adjacent seat or somewhere where he can easily adjust the controls and glance at the display. Set the radio on medium power to not exceed the 10 amp cigarette lighter current rating. I've had this kind of set up before in my new car for a trip to California and it worked out quite well.

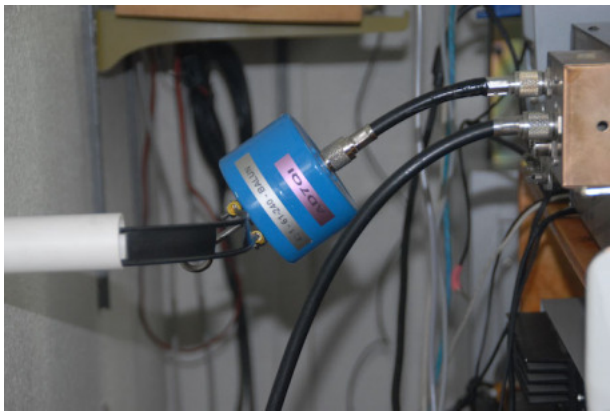
I think that the cutting board set up is safer, higher power, the antenna is in a good place (with high ERP), easier to hear in the vehicle, and more convenient to operate. I also suggested that if this works out… then he permanently wire a 12 volt connection (with the correct wire size and fuses) directly to the vehicle's battery. This pigtail from the battery would have a power pole connector for easy in/out of the vehicle. This method would allow the mobile ham to operate the mobile radio at the 50 watt full power output.

Lets do the ERP math. The mobile transmitter with 50 watts output, to a short piece of coax cable (~.5 dB loss) then to a magnetic roof mount antenna with 3.5 dB gain adds up to approx 100 watts ERP.

A couple of months ago I wrote an article on Koyaanisqatsi, feed lines out of balance, which explained why we should use baluns in our antenna systems. Here's another example why baluns are important.

A while back at the club HF station, while using the old antenna tuner with the built in balun… we were getting a huge amount of RF in the shack. The RF was messing up the computer and feeding back into the microphone and PC to rig interface. After taking the tuner apart it was apparent that the balun inside was a voltage balun which is incapable of keeping the currents in the feed line equal and cancelling.

For the Salmon Run we decided to use another tuner, a very nice Heathkit SA-2060 with built in SWR and power meters. After learning the previous lesson (paragraph above)… I opened up the Heathkit and low and behold– another voltage balun. Bill AD7QI came to the rescue and loaned the Salmon Run contest team one of his Current Baluns which was placed right at the tuners coax out jack. The ladder line antenna was



View of back of the Heathkit tuner. A 6 inch coax jumper connects the balun to the ladder line that feeds the station's dipole.

Continued next page...

screwed down to the ladder line multi-band dipole. We used the Drake L4 linear for most of the Salmon Run and I only had one instance of RF interference on the PC to rig interface data cable which was a few inches from the ladder line. One small toroid on the data cable took care of the problem. It is my opinion that the current balun on the tuner saved us from severe RF interference like we have had in the past.

The loaner balun has been returned to Bill… however he offered to take the Heathkit tuner to his shop and remove the inferior voltage balun and replace it with one of his current baluns.

In the Koyaanisqatsi article I related how I eliminated RF in my shack by building and installing my own choke balun and I subse-

Foto shows the new current balun inside of the Heathkit SA 2060 Antenna Tuner.

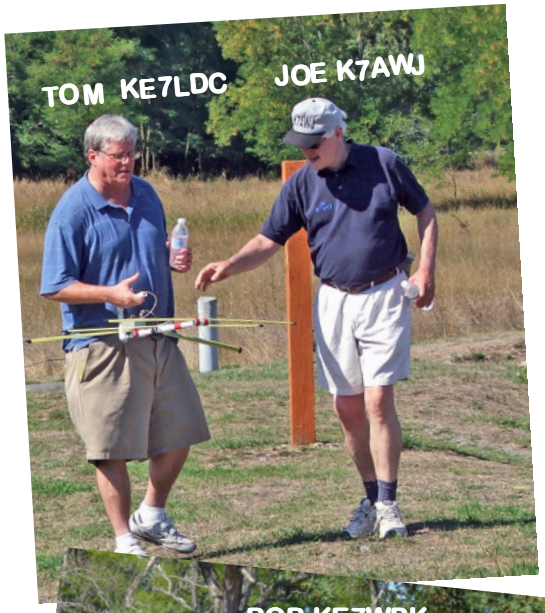
quently built a current balun like the one Bill installed in the tuner… I can attest that current balun between your rig or tuner and the ladder line makes a huge difference. So, if you still have RF in your shack or the electronics in your home is interfering with your ham station, I suggest you look into baluns.

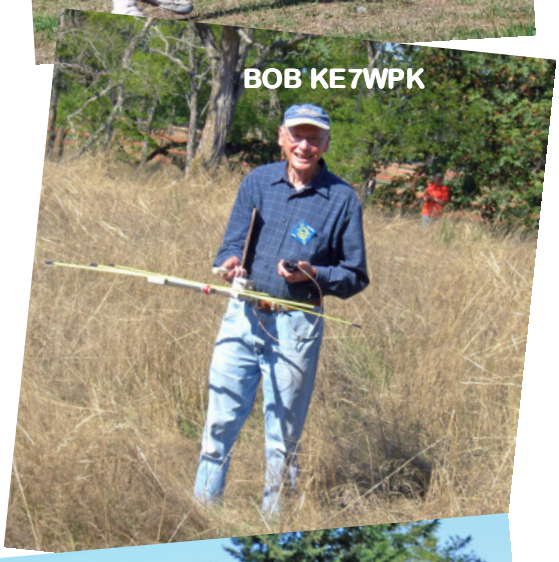
Thanks Bill for helping us out at the Salmon Run and upgrading the W7DK HF station tuner.

OK, Joe? Best Regards. BCNU at SKN. –30-

Sept 12 Bunny Hunt… Big Success

By Bugs, Barkie Staff Reporter





Read all about it… next month

Happy Birthday October

Day	Name	Call	RCT Number
1	Bill Watson	**W9BYH**	1806
1	Rick Hannes	**KA7WGE**	2396
2	Al Ross	**KE7AWV**	2255
2	Larry Smith	**KD7RKX**	2170
3	Jim Martin	**WB5K**	2230
5	Dave Funk	**WA7RSO**	2143
6	Jane Clark	**KD7UKQ**	2224
7	Chris Buck	**KE7LDE**	2328
9	Phil Joy	**N7KNQ**	1382
11	Del Chase	**KB7PKI**	1623
13	Bill Bonnell	**K7PKM**	516
14	Del Kohler	**W7JG**	559
14	Milton Loflin	**KD7GUD**	2048
15	Angie Stann	**KE7RTA**	2359
15	Brandon Ornellas	**KE7RVX**	2366
15	Mary Atkinson	**KE7TEY**	2433
17	Tom Sadler	**KC7UFX**	2020
18	Jill Palmer	**K7JIL**	1909
21	Gail Wolvin	**KB7UON**	2080
22	Casey Hicks	**WY7V**	797
22	Sue Summers	**KF7BAF**	2428
23	Brian Mackan	**KF7CRC**	2422
26	Bill Wright	**AD7QI**	2331
26	Jeff Willson	**KE7ZYI**	2402
27	Armin Keen	**N7JAJ**	1171
29	Roger Terwilliger	**WA7ANJ**	1618
31	Bruce Hanson	**WE7P**	2382

The Radio Club of Tacoma's

Logger's Bark

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Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

OCTOBER 2009 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays September 14th and 28th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday September 7th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.